

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/038,987

Examiner

Jalatee Worjloh

Applicant(s)

MAES, STEPHANE H.

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/11/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-24 and 34-37.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Handwritten signature or mark.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is US Patent No. 5903878 to Talati et al.

Talati et al. disclose a method and apparatus for electronic commerce. In Talati et al.'s system an electronic commerce transaction occurs between a client, merchant and a CA utilizing an e-mail control system (ECS) to enable confirmation of the validity of the transaction. Talati et al. taken either individual or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest providing, by the first party to the second party, contact information of a third party service provider associated with the first party and contacting, by the second party, the third party service provider to obtain a location of a predetermined, private mailbox associated with the first party, wherein information regarding the private mailbox is not communicated to the second party during the electronic transaction as recited in independent claim 1 and providing, by the first party to the second party, contact information of a third party service provider associated with the first party and providing, by the second party to the third-party service provider, a request for confirmation of the electronic transaction, wherein information regarding the private mailbox is not communicated to the second party during the electronic transaction as recited in independent claim 18.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- “Beyond announces most advanced remote e-mail solution; Beyondmail 2.0 remote is key component of re-engineering toolkit” discloses an agent mailbox that automatically queries corporate database and sends the information to the remote user. Also, the agent mailbox verifies inventory levels and sends an order confirmation to the customer via e-mail.
- European Patent No. 1085436A2 discloses an e-mail system.
- US Publication No. 2001/0029496 to Otto et al. discloses a system and method for providing anonymous financial transactions. In Otto et al.’s system, a client connects to the network via a proxy server to anonymously browse and purchase items from a website.
- US Publication No. 2003/0069857 to Junda discloses a proxy system for customer confidentiality. Junda teaches a system and method that enables customers to purchase goods or services from a merchant without revealing selected real user data to the merchant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jalatee Worjloh whose telephone number is (571)272-6714. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays 8:30 - 7:00.

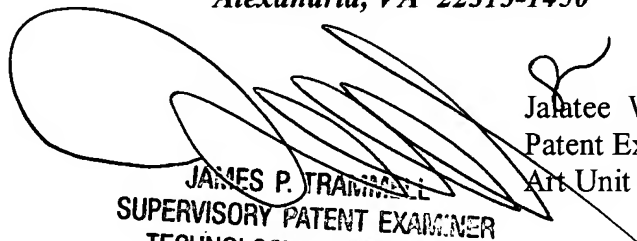
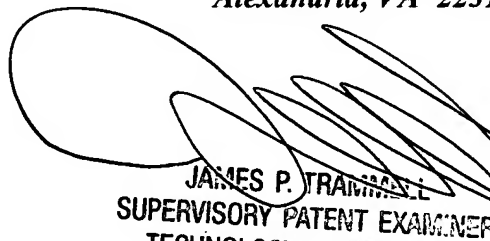
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571)272-6712. The fax phone number for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306 for Regular/After Final Actions and (571)273-6714 for Non-Official/Draft.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Jalatee Worjloh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621

JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

June 23, 2005